



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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25 SEPTEMBER 2002

Taxpayer Group Names Representative Howard Coble “Hero of the Taxpayer”

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) issues its 2002 Congressional Ratings; North Carolina Representative receives 95% rating.

WASHINGTON —America’s leading taxpayer advocacy organization, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), today issued its “Hero of the Taxpayer” awards at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, DC.

Among this year’s recipients is North Carolina Representative Howard Coble, who received 95% rating from ATR. The awards are given to members of Congress who, by scoring at least 85, consistently side with taxpayers on important legislative issues.

“In the never-ending battle between special interests and taxpayers, Howard has demonstrated strong commitment to the taxpayers of North Carolina and those living all across America,” said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, who heads ATR in Washington. “Coble’s 95% score shows an unmistakable dedication to North Carolina taxpayers, not the rapacious government spending lobbies that swarm around the congressional office buildings in Washington.”

ATR began issuing “Hero of the Taxpayer” awards in 1995. The awards are based on 18 tax-related votes per senator and representative, and members receive five points each time they side with taxpayers. Members also receive 10 points if they have signed ATR’s Taxpayer Protection Pledge, which is a written commitment to their constituents to oppose new taxes, making for a highest possible score of 100. The votes chosen to calculate the ratings, as well as their explanations, can be viewed on ATR’s website at www.ATR.org.

“Taxes are the single most important domestic policy issue in America,” continued Norquist. “and more senators and representatives like Howard Coble are needed to keep the government small and our tax burden under control.”

Grover Norquist established ATR in 1985 to generate popular support for the Tax Reform Act of 1986, which radically simplified the nation’s tax code. The group evolved to become one of the most influential advocacy groups in Washington, opposing all tax increases at the federal, state and local levels as a matter of principle. ATR supports a tax structure where taxes are simpler, fairer, flatter, more visible and lower than they are today.

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal and state tax increases.

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